

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 31, 2011
AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 11, 2011
AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2011
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 24, 2011

SENATE BILL

No. 500

Introduced by Senator Hancock

February 17, 2011

An act to ~~amend Section 54690 of~~ *add Section 54691.5 to* the Education Code, relating to partnership academies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 500, as amended, Hancock. Partnership academies.

Existing law provides for the establishment of partnership academies for pupils at risk of dropping out of school by participating school districts that meet specified eligibility requirements, and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue grants to school districts for planning, establishing, and maintaining the partnership academies.

~~This bill would state the Legislature's intent to preserve support and funding for existing partnership academies scheduled to expire on June 30, 2012.~~

The

This bill would require that, if funds are appropriated for the support of certain partnership academies in the annual Budget Act or any other measure, the Superintendent allocate funds to these partnership academies, and that this funding be awarded on a competitive basis in accordance with the provisions of law that govern partnership academies.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 54690 of the Education Code, as amended~~
2 ~~by Section 1 of Chapter 650 of the Statutes of 2010, is amended~~
3 ~~to read:~~

4 ~~54690. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the~~
5 ~~partnership academies program has proven to be a highly effective~~
6 ~~state-school-private sector partnership, providing combined~~
7 ~~academic and occupational training to high school pupils who~~
8 ~~present a high risk of dropping out of school, and motivating those~~
9 ~~pupils to stay in school and graduate. Partnership academies are~~
10 ~~functioning in high schools across the state, with occupational~~
11 ~~education and skills development successfully offered in~~
12 ~~California's 15 different industry sectors, including electronics,~~
13 ~~computer technology, finance, agribusiness, alternative energy,~~
14 ~~environmental design and construction, graphic arts and printing,~~
15 ~~international business, and space. Partnership academies have been~~
16 ~~honored with national awards for excellence, and the California~~
17 ~~partnership academies have been given high accolades in various~~
18 ~~textbooks and studies addressing career technical education~~
19 ~~programs.~~

20 ~~(b) The Legislature finds that the partnership academies are in~~
21 ~~the forefront of school efforts to integrate academic and career~~
22 ~~technical education and that they can be effective in providing an~~
23 ~~integrated learning program and high motivation toward pursuing~~
24 ~~skilled occupational fields to pupils at risk of dropping out of~~
25 ~~school and to pupils not motivated by the regular educational~~
26 ~~curriculum. Further, the Legislature finds that the partnership~~
27 ~~academies can make a very positive contribution towards meeting~~
28 ~~the needs of the state for a highly skilled and educated workforce~~
29 ~~in the 21st century.~~

30 ~~(c) Therefore, the Legislature hereby states its intent to expand~~
31 ~~the number of partnership academies in this state's high schools,~~
32 ~~hereafter to be known as California Partnership Academies; to~~
33 ~~broaden the availability of these learning experiences to interested~~
34 ~~pupils who do not meet the criteria of "at-risk" pupils; and to~~
35 ~~encourage the establishment of academies whose occupational~~
36 ~~fields address the needs of developing technologies. The~~
37 ~~Legislature further states its intent to preserve support and funding~~
38 ~~for high-quality existing partnership academies scheduled to expire~~

1 on June 30, 2012. This commitment ensures that work with high
2 school pupils can continue without interruption, thereby increasing
3 the likelihood of graduation, postsecondary education, credentialed
4 training, or gainful employment. This commitment also strengthens
5 the economy by creating and sustaining a skilled workforce for
6 the state.

7 (d) ~~For purposes of this article, an “at-risk” pupil means a pupil~~
8 ~~enrolled in high school who is at risk of dropping out of school,~~
9 ~~as indicated by at least three of the following criteria:~~

10 (1) ~~Past record of irregular attendance. For purposes of this~~
11 ~~section, “irregular attendance” means absence from school 20~~
12 ~~percent or more of the school year.~~

13 (2) ~~Past record of underachievement in which the pupil is at~~
14 ~~least one-third of a year behind the coursework for the respective~~
15 ~~grade level, or as demonstrated by credits achieved.~~

16 (3) ~~Past record of low motivation or a disinterest in the regular~~
17 ~~school program.~~

18 (4) ~~Disadvantaged economically.~~

19 (5) ~~Scoring below basic or far below basic in mathematics or~~
20 ~~English language arts on the standardized test administered~~
21 ~~pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 60640) of Chapter~~
22 ~~5 of Part 33.~~

23 (6) ~~Maintaining a grade point average of 2.2 or below, or the~~
24 ~~equivalent of a C minus.~~

25 (e) ~~Up to one-half of the pupils enrolled at a partnership~~
26 ~~academy may be pupils who do not meet the criteria of “at-risk”~~
27 ~~pupils.~~

28 (f) ~~The department may expend no more than 5 percent of the~~
29 ~~funds received to carry out this article on administrative expenses.~~

30 ~~SEC. 2. (a)~~

31 *SECTION 1. Section 54691.5 is added to the Education Code,*
32 *to read:*

33 *54691.5. (a) If funds are appropriated in the annual Budget*
34 *Act or any other measure for the support of partnership academies*
35 *funded pursuant to Chapter 352 of the Statutes of 2005, these funds*
36 *shall be allocated pursuant to subdivision (b).*

37 (b) Commencing with the 2012–13 fiscal year, the
38 Superintendent shall allocate funds to California Partnership
39 Academies that received funding pursuant to the enactment of
40 Chapter 352 of the Statutes of 2005. This funding shall be awarded

- 1 on a competitive basis, pursuant to the provisions of ~~Article 5~~ *this*
- 2 *article.* ~~(commencing with Section 54690) of Chapter 9 of Part 29~~
- 3 ~~of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Education Code.~~